reducing the prices of groundnut oil voluntarily. As a result of the discussion held, the millers and traders responded positively and it was announced that they would with immediate effect ensure the retail sale of groundnut oil in loose not exceeding Rs. 38/- per Kg.

Further such meetings were held at Bombay and Hyderabad, where retail price of loose groundnut oil was agreed to be sold by trade for Rs. 39 per Kg. and Rs. 37 per Kg. respectively.

Ration shops without food

3130. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item captioned "Ration shops go without food" which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated 5th December, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the irregular supply of rationed cereals and sugar in the capital for the last several months; and the reasons for supply of poor quality of cereals, particularly rice, and shortage of quantity in a bag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Although the average level of supplies of foodgrains and sugar to Delhi has been more or less maintained during the current year, there do occur occasionally some disruptions in the supplies due to reasons like industrial relations problems in Food Corporation of India (FCI) depots, transportation bottlenecks, temporary fall in levels of stocks in the road-fed godowns and other operational problems. FCI issues foodgrains conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards to State Governments/UT Administrations. The agencies lifting foodgrains from FCI depots are permitted to inspect the stocks before accepting the consignment. Complaints of poor quality of foodgrains are attended to and replacement effected, wherever necessary, if found correct. Delhi Administration is strengthening the coordination with FCI and Delhi State Cvil Supplies Corporation to ensure that adequate stocks of specified food articles are made available timely for distribution under the PDS.

Aims and objects of BIS

3131. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the aim and objects of the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) whether it is Government's policy to encourage only ISI marks equipments and appliances;

(c) how much amount was spent by Government on BIS during the last financial year to encourage ISI mark products;

(d) whether Government accept the IDBI classification of "reputed manufacturers" and "reliable quality";

(e) whether Government are aware that many Government Offices and Public sector organisations disregard the direction on ISI marks and give their own interpretations; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take to discourage this and what steps Government will take to encourage ISI mark appliances and equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Harmonious development of the activities of standardization of marking and quality certification of goods and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 13 lakhs were spent for publicity of ISI marked goods in the year 1990-91, by BIS.

(d) Such a classification is not adopted by BIS.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Steps like media publicity, seminars conferences, participation in buyer-seller meets and exhibitions etc. are taken to encourage the use of the ISI Marks.

Disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat

3132. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to c) In a meeting held at Gandhinagar on 30th November, 1991 with the leading millers and traders, Union Finance Minister, Union Minister of State for Commerce, Chief-Minister Gujarat and Union Minister of State for Civil Supplies and Public Distribution appealed them to reduce voluntarily the price of groundnut oil as a gesture to cooperate with the Govt. in its efforts of bringing down the prices of the commodities. The millers and traders, who participated in the meeting, responded positively and offered to observe voluntarily a measure of price restraints and agreed to ensure sale of groundnut oil in lose at Rs. 38 per Kg. Following the announcement of this voluntary reduction in prices, there was no transaction in the initial few days as there was some confusion in the trading circles. The position has now improved and reportedly there is no difficulty with the availability at present.

Strengthening of Public Distribution System

3133. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute tea, soap, pulses, note books, matchboxes and washing soap through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any target date has been fixed for its implementation;

(c) in what manner Government propose to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the identified intergrated tribal development projects areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas and designated Hill areas; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw upper strata of society from PDS altogether so that PDS benefits could reach the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Proposals to include items like tea, soap, pulses and salt for distribution through PDS outlets were discussed in the 13th meeting of Advisory Council on PDS held on 23rd & 24th August, 91 and subsequently in the Chief Minister's Conference held in October, 91. It was suggested to State Govts. that they consider distribution of a additional items using PDS outlets wherever feasible, based on local requirements. It was also agreed that National level organisations such as Tea Board, NAFED, NCCF etc. would help State Governments in arranging supplies of these commodities subject to availability and acceptability of prices of these commodities. Some State Governments are already distributing such items through PDS outlets.

(c) The Scheme for streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System in the identified integrated tribal development project areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas